interest rates for export credit are quite competitive and comparable to international rates. Further, credit is only one of the inputs for exports.

(d) and (e). Complaints from exporters received in the Government generally pertain to non-availability of adequate export credit at cheaper rates. RBI has issued detailed instructions to banks to ensure that (i) no worthwhile export suffers for want of funds (ii) cases of rejection of export credit proposals are brought to the notice of the Chief Executive explaining reasons for rejection; and (iii) grievance of exporter-borrowers in the matter of timely and adequate sanction of credit limits are redressed promptly.

Setting up of a Dry port at Kandla

2152. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the facilities to be provided at the Dry Port at Kandla and the cost of the project;

(b) the details of any other sites under consideration of the Government for setting up such dry ports in the country, Statewise; and

(c) the time by which these ports are likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) A dry port normally means provision of facilities like warehousing of cargo, customs clearance, stuffing/destuffing, banking, services of steamer agents, freight forwarders, etc., at points away from maritime ports. In India these facilities are being provided at Inland Container Depots (ICDs) and Container Freight Stations (CFSs) which have been set up at various places. An Inter Ministerial Committe (IMC) is functioning in the Ministry of Commerce to provide single window clearance to the proposals for setting up of Dry Ports (Inland Container Depots/Container Freight Stations (ICDs/CFSs). A proposal of Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC) for setting up a CFS at Kandla was cleared by the said IMC. The CFS at Kandla which has been built at a cost of approx. Rs. 1.5 crores by CWC is in operation since March, 1996.

(b) and (c). The Government considers proposals for setting up ICDs/CFSs as and when received. The proposals under consideration of Government for setting up Dry Ports in the country, State-wise are as under :

1. Kerala - (CFSs at Aroor and Cochin)
2. Maharashtra - (CFSs at Dronagiri Node and New Bombay)
3. Uttar Pradesh - (ICD at Dadri)
4. Tamil Nadu-(CFS at Tuticorin)
5. Gujarat - (CFS at Rajkot)
6. Rajasthan - (ICD at Bhiwadi)

Export of Cotton

2153. SHRI SANAT MEHTA :
SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI :
SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government propose to withdra all restrictions from export of cotton and cotton v during the current cotton season;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to help the cotton grov is to boost its export?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) An export quota of 5.15 lakh bales has already been released early in the cotton year 1996-97.

Besides, with a view to help cotton growers, Minimum Support Prices (MSP) have been announced by Government. The Cotton Corporation of India Ltd. (CCI) has been entering most of the major cotton parists to make commercial purchases. Various State Marketing Federations are also purchasing cotton from the growers directly. To enhance the production of cotton, the Ministry of Agriculture has taken various measures including the implementation of Intensive Cotton Development Programme. The CCI has also taken up extension projects for supplementing the efforts of State Governments.

[Translation]

Funds for Research and Exploration Work

2154. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ :
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the funds allocated for research and exploration work in coal industry during the Eighth Five Year Plan;

(b) whether proper utilisation of the allocated amount was not made during the last four years of the Plan;

(c) if so, the total actual amount spent on research and exploration work till March, 1996; and

(d) the details of the research and exploration work done for the development of coal industry during the Eighth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) The total outlay in the Eighth Five Year Plan towards research and development activities in the coal sector and regional exploration of coal was Rs. 87 crores and Rs. 25 crores respectively. The provision of Rs. 25 crores for regional exploration was subsequently increased to Rs. 45 crores during mid-term appraisal of the Plan.

(b) to (d). A sum of about Rs. 15.19 crores has been incurred on the approved research and development projects relating to four major areas of researh viz. production, productivity and safety, coal benefication, coal utilisation and environment and ecology during the year 1992-93 to 1995-96. As on 31.3.1996, there were 41 on-going projects relating to these activities.

The drilling meterage of regional exploration during the first four years of the Eighth Plan (1992-93 to 1995-96) has been to the tune of approximately 269148. A sum of about Rs. 33.53 crores has been incurred on the drilling activities during the period.

Sub-Standard Cement

2155. SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received complaints that some buildings in which 43 Grade Bach No. 49/95 Cement of J.K. Udaipur Udyog Limited under the brand name 'J.K. Shakti Cement' Brand (I.S.I.) was used has caved in recently;

(b) if so, the number of such complaints received by the Government and the management of cement manufacturers including J.K. Udaipur Udyog Limited in the recent past;

(c) whether any compensation in this regard has been paid so far;

(d) if not, the reasons for non-payment of the compensation; and

(e) the effectiveness of the role of the Ministry of Industry in preventing such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (d). One complaint was received in this regard by the Government. From the test results, the cement used by the complainant passed in strength and hence the quality of cement could not be the reason for the mishap reported by the complainant.

(e) As per Cement (Quality Control) Order, 1995 no person shall himself or by any person on his behalf, manufacture or store for sale, sell or distribute cement which does not conform to the prescribed standard and which does not bear the Standard Mark. Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) is monitoring the quality of cement produced on a continous basis and if cement is found to be sub-standard after testing samples, the certification granted by them is immediately revoked.

Handloom Development Centres

2156. DR. RAM LAKHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the funds provided by the Union Government for setting up of Handloom Development Centres and Quality Dyeing Units in the Shape of assistance and loan during each of the last three years, state-wise; and

(b) the loan provided by other financial institutions such as NABARD for implementation of these schemes during the above period, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) The Scheme of Handloom Development Centres (HDCs) and Quality Dyeing Units (QDUs) envisages provision of a composite assistance to the tune of Rs. 27.00 lakhs per HDC and Rs. 7.83 lakhs per QDU, out of which, Rs. 10.00 lakhs per HDC and Rs. 4.265 lakhs per QDU is in the form of Central grant and balance as loan. A statement showing State-wise funds sanctioned during the last three years is attached.

(b) No such data is maintained.

STATEMENT

S. No.	State	Assistance Provided		
		1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
1.	Andhra Pradesh	246.95	414.090	217.820
2.	Assam	100.00	409.235	84.490
3.	Bihar	-	74.460	114.410
4.	Gujarat	-	20.420	8.250
5.	Haryana	-	-	4.000
6.	Himachal Pradesh	2.00	30.360	26.195
7.	Jammu and Kashmir	-	6.080	3.040
8.	Karnataka	17.50	84.690	26.695
9.	Kerala	29.37	260.980	116.050
10.	Madhya Pradesh	20.00	82.065	31.870
11.	Maharashtra	6.00	53.385	26.480
12.	Manipur	113.74	607.525	132.000
13.	Nagaland	-	-	8.000
14.	Orissa	170.30	278.28	153.840
15.	Rajasthan	-	3.040	2.235
16.	Tamil Nadu	124.85	805.830	449.105
17.	Tripura	-	48.010	17.075
18.	Uttar Pradesh	-	404.890	140.130
19.	West Bengal	161.29	336.640	165.855
20.	Pondicherry	-	10.5015	-
	Total	1000.00	4018.5015	1720.340

Setting up of Big Industries in Uttar Pradesh

2157. SHRI MUNAWWAR HASSAN : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of foreign proposals received from January 1996 onward by the Government for setting up big industries in Uttar Pradesh industry-wise; and

(b) the decisions taken by the Government in this regard?